

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STATION MENEMSHA  
AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE SUM-  
NER I. KIMBALL AWARD

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Coast Guard Station Menemsha, of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, as the recipient of the prestigious Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award.

The Kimball Award is a rarity in the United States Coast Guard, as very few units attain this level of outstanding performance. It demands a grade of 90 percent or higher during a rigorous week-long inspection, requiring a combination of exemplary test scores, crew proficiency, superb vessel condition, excellent performance in drills, a successful and progressive unit training program, survival systems readiness and good administrative work by all members.

This award actually marks the second time that Menemsha has been given this prestigious honor—they won it for the first time in 2004.

This award is named after the Maine native who introduced training, performance standards and accountability into the life saving organization that eventually became the Coast Guard. This honor is extremely difficult to achieve, and even more noteworthy considering the high-tech vessel the crew must master and maintain, the 47-foot Motor Lifeboat. Of the 200 Coast Guard stations throughout the country, only a handful receive the Kimball Award, and only two stations that operate the 47-foot MLB were so honored.

The Menemsha Coast Guard station has come a long way. In the early 1990s it was in danger of closing, but the people of Martha's Vineyard rallied to save it. For a brief period it was used by the Town of Chilmark, and then it became a substation of the Woods Hole station. In recent years, it became a full-time station and—time and time again—has proven its importance. This award is not just a testament to the station, but it is a tribute to the hard-working men and women who serve our Coast Guard and who are willing to put their life on the line to protect the safety of mariners and the integrity of our coast.

On the Vineyard, the Coast Guard is an important part of the community. Those who first served as life savers came from the island, and are part of a very proud tradition that began here years ago. Today, those who serve in Station Menemsha are not just representing a Federal agency, but are very much members of the community, honoring the proud tradition of service that the people of Martha's Vineyard hold dear.

Station Menemsha's remarkable achievement is not just about receiving an award; it is a testament to the professionalism and dedication that each member of the station brings to the job. In their line of work, readiness and

competence is the difference between life and death.

I would like to congratulate and recognize Station Chief Steve Barr and the men and women stationed at Menemsha for their exemplary service:

BM3 Dustin Shaw, BM2 Matthew Sponable, BM2 Bill Robertson, SK2 Rachel Glade, MK3 Christopher Guice, FN Julie Lopatka, BMCN Jack Downey, BMC Chris Bobrowski, FN Shannon Heintzelman, BM3 Rajeah Wilson, BM2 Lance Nelligan, MK3 Greg Lockwood, SN Derek Perendy, BM3 Daniel Carrillo, MK1 Mike Micucci, MK2 Nicholas Prescott, SN Jarrett Dube, RADM Timothy Sullivan, MK3 Andrew Chace, BM2 Patrick Bryant, BM3 Andrew Leblanc, BM3 Joe Pancotti, CAPT Raymond Perry, and BM3 Mark Chaknis.

[From the Martha's Vineyard Times, Jan. 31, 2008]

STATION MENEMSHA WINS RARE READINESS  
AWARD

(by Steve Myrick)

Last summer, a fishing boat in a dangerous stretch of water off Aquinnah was taking on water. The call for help came to United States Coast Guard Station Menemsha.

Petty Officer Second Class Lance Nelligan scrambled his crew, and guided the station's 47-foot motor lifeboat to the distressed vessel, where the fishing crew was moments away from abandoning their sinking boat.

"They came across Devil's Bridge," said Petty Officer Nelligan, "bounced a couple of rocks, split a whole bunch of big cracks in the bottom of their hull. We were able to get out there, we put two people on board to rig a pump and get the boat pumped."

Petty Officer Nelligan recounts the story of his day's work the way most people mention writing a sales report, replacing a fan belt, or waiting on a customer. The skill, training, and preparation of his crew saved a valuable boat and got two very grateful fishermen safely back to port. But to him, it's no big deal.

But the Sumner I. Kimball Award? Now that's a big deal to Petty Officer Nelligan. "To have somebody come in and say the job that you're doing is award worthy, is a really big deal," he said. "The things that we're tested on, it's absolutely everything you can think of. It takes a lot, a lot, a lot of work to keep those boats ready, and keep the crew ready."

"In my mind," adds Petty Officer Second Class Bill Robertson, "this is almost the Super Bowl of the Coast Guard."

BOAT OF NOTE

The Kimball Award is named for the Maine native who introduced training, performance standards, and accountability into the life saving organization that eventually became the Coast Guard.

The honor is extremely difficult to achieve, and even more noteworthy considering the high-tech vessel the crew must master and maintain. It is a test of readiness, including the condition of the vessel, along with the skill and training of the crew, administered by inspectors so tough that they inspire awe among the enlisted men and women.

"This isn't flag football, everybody gets a trophy sort of a deal," said Rear Admiral

Tim Sullivan, who flew to the Island to present the honor to station personnel this past Friday. Admiral Sullivan commands the Coast Guard's First District, which includes eight northeast states and 2000 miles of coastline from the Maine to northern New Jersey.

Of more than 200 Coast Guard stations throughout the country, only a handful receive the Kimball Award, and only two stations that operate the 47-foot motor lifeboat were so honored.

"It's the most complicated boat we have, it's a beast of a machine," said Lieutenant Commander Chris Cederholm, who represented Coast Guard Group Woods Hole at the ceremony.

"This award will become a benchmark," Admiral Sullivan said. "You guys really set a benchmark as a crew. Your outstanding performance is really your gift to a lot of future generations. A lot of folks will follow behind you, they will have to stand on a lot of big blue shoulders. People are going to be standing on your shoulders. This is a day you'll look back on, maybe when you're an old grey admiral. Think about that legacy, of people that will follow behind you."

Coast Guard Petty Officers (left to right) BM2 Bill Robertson and BM2 Lance Nelligan were all smiles, holding the pennant they will fly aboard Station Menemsha's 47-foot motor lifeboat. The pennant symbolizes the Kimball Award, earned by only one other boat of this kind in the entire Coast Guard this year. Click photo for larger version.

TOUGH TEST

Seven months after the grueling evaluation, MK First Class Mike Micucci, the head engineer, still scolds himself about one of the most serious faults the inspectors found in the material condition of his vessel: a missing screw in a plastic cover. It was nothing that would have interfered in the boat's operation, but it cost him a precious point in the rating system.

"I can't believe I missed that," said Petty Officer Micucci. "The guys that come and do the inspections, they know what to look for, you have to be one step ahead of them."

Senior Station Chief Steve Barr was unable to attend the ceremony. At the moment his station personnel received the award, he was welcoming newborn son Isaac into the world.

"He's got a good excuse," said Admiral Sullivan. "Another little Coastie coming along."

"I wish I could have been there, absolutely," said Chief Barr. "It's a joy for me that my crew got this award, with or without me. The fact that we got this Kimball with the 47-foot motor lifeboat is just amazing. It's a big deal, and we have a lot of junior people there. They did exceptionally well. I'm very proud of all their hard work."

READY AND ABLE

As difficult as the Kimball Award is to get, it is not difficult to understand how the station achieved the honor. Speaking to the personnel offers a glimpse of the professionalism, pride, and dedication which courses through the ranks. They understand that the award represents more than passing an exam on a specific day. They know an engine leak, a poorly maintained pump, or a navigation error may mean points deducted from the Kimball award grade sheet. "They

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

watch us plot position, lay down courses," said Petty Officer Nelligan. "How we organize the crew, how we get our boat set up, how we're going to respond. They're pretty much testing everything that could possibly go wrong."

The unit also realizes these things can mean life or death when it's not a drill. "We are a search and rescue station," said Petty Officer Nelligan. "It's the middle of the night, it's the middle of the day, during a meal, those are the times you really have to snap to and get the boats ready."

Petty Officer Nelligan joined the Coast Guard shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. "I wanted to be involved in some branch of the service that I knew was going to protect my family, and this country," said the Dennis native.

Petty Officer Robertson, who grew up in Wrentham, is a six-year veteran of the Coast Guard. He flashes a broad grin when recalling the day Chief Barr told the assembled crew that they had won the Kimball Award. "Definitely a lot of big smiles and high fives," he said.

Petty Officer Robertson likes the Menemsha assignment so much, he asked to extend his duty an extra year. "I like the whole Island vibe, the whole atmosphere," he said. "We have a blast in the summer, we have a really tight-knit crew here. We work hard and play hard."

The pride carries over to the town of Chilmark, which has come to think of the station as its own. "They are an integral part of our community," said Chilmark selectman Frank Fenner Jr., who along with selectman Riggs Parker, and a large contingent of town officers, police officers, residents, attended the morning ceremony. "I'm proud that this station is doing so well."

## HORRIFIC ATTACK ON BAGHDAD MARKET

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On February 1, 2008, two young women with developmental disabilities walked into a Baghdad market, most likely unaware that they were being used as walking bombs, about to be remotely detonated.

In a horrific and coordinated attack, these vulnerable women lost their lives, along with more than 70 other innocent bystanders.

As the godfather of a young boy who has developmental disabilities and as a strong advocate for that community, it is my hope that we continue to fight against the exploitation of these heroic people anywhere in the world.

This horrific attack is the latest demonstration of the kind of uncivilized evil that we are confronting in the war on terror. We have even heard rumors this week that young children are being used by these terrorists. What kind of human being would stoop to this level to achieve their aims?

Madam Speaker, this event should serve as an example why our Nation must continue to protect the rights of the innocent and to continue to preserve freedom for everyone.

## TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE HALEY

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mrs. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime civic and political leader from East Houston—Debbie Haley of Terrell—who died recently at the age of 72. Mrs. Haley was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community, and she will be missed by all those who knew her.

Leona Deborah Penn Haley was born on February 24, 1935, in Queens, a borough of New York City, the daughter of Edward and Rella Penn. She was a graduate of Queens College. From 1958 to 1966, Haley taught in elementary schools in New York and Nashville, TN. In 1968, Haley and her husband, a physician, moved to Houston.

Mrs. Haley emphasized education as the key to advancing minority interests. Founder of the Texas Black Caucus, in 1976, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Debbie Haley was also a president of the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County. For years, she also was a board member of the United Negro College Fund.

Madam Speaker, Debbie Haley's commitment to her community, her legacy of generosity, and her selflessness serve as an example to all Americans. It is people like Debbie, working together in communities in Texas that make our Nation so great. We can celebrate the power of one individual, Debbie Haley, by bringing the best out of all us in our neighbors, our community, and our Nation.

In addition to her son Anthony, survivors include her husband, Ronald Haley of Houston; two other sons, Sean Haley of Pearland and Kyle Haley of North Hollywood, Calif.; and a daughter, Rhonda Sewell of Sugar Land.

She was well-loved and well-respected in Houston and Texas, and she will be missed by all those who knew her. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding community leader, Debbie Haley.

## HONORING MR. VIC TRUJILLO

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vic Trujillo for receiving the "7-Everyday Hero" award. I am pleased to recognize his service and the many contributions he has made to our community.

For the last 12 years, Lions Club member Vic Trujillo and his wife Ida volunteered side by side. Their dedication to the community blossomed into a program to prevent neighbors from going hungry while empowering youth to help others. Mr. Trujillo has continued the family's commitment to community service even after his wife's passing.

Partnering with schools in the tri-town area of Firestone, Frederick, and Dacono, the Trujillos have created a canned-good competition in which area schools compete to collect the

most canned goods. Prairie Ridge Elementary School won the most recent competition—collecting well over 4,000 canned food items. With the cans from other schools, this program fills the tri-town food closets each year—providing about 60 families with donated food every month. For people who do not have homes or food, this service is life-saving. To augment the canned resources, Mr. Trujillo has also encouraged these schools to sponsor a community bingo game.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Vic Trujillo for his exceptional community work and to express our appreciation for his efforts. I'm proud to acknowledge his reception of the "7-Everyday Hero" award and wish him good health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been there.

H. Res. 954, rollcall No. 43—Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 909, rollcall No. 44—Commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah" and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Con. Res. 281, rollcall No. 45—Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

## HONORING JOHN MIKOLAJCIK, OF AMERICAN CANYON, CALIFORNIA

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Mikolajcik in honor of his service to the city and people of American Canyon, California.

Mr. Mikolajcik was born in Cohoes, New York, on April 30, 1921. He received his call of duty a day after Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served 4½ years as a mess sergeant. In 1954 he built and opened the Mid City Nursery in American Canyon, a nursery which has continued to flourish throughout the years. He began his career of public service when he was appointed to the American Canyon School Board, which was consolidated into the Napa Valley Unified School District, serving a total of 22 years. Thanks to the guidance of Mr. Mikolajcik, American Canyon now has three

elementary schools, two middle schools and a high school projected to open in the near future.

Mr. Mikolajcik was a strong proponent of American Canyon during his tenure on the Napa City Council, where he served two terms from 1980 to 1988. Mr. Mikolajcik was at the forefront of the negotiations to integrate American Canyon into Napa County, and in 1992 that goal was achieved. He continued in his civic efforts and served one term on the Napa County Planning Commission, where he was involved in the formation of a volunteer fire department and a water and recreation district.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank John Mikolajcik for his years of dedication and service on behalf of the Napa Valley. He has been a model citizen and leader in American Canyon and his presence there has enriched the lives of everyone in our community.

COMMENDING DR. KHEM AGGARWAL FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dr. Khem Aggarwal for his outstanding contributions to the field of higher education.

Dr. Aggarwal has been an educator in higher education for over 50 years, having served in his homeland, India, for 13 years, at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Wis., from 1983 to 1986, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., from 1981 to 1983, and currently serving as Professor of Mathematics at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Alexandria, La., where he has been teaching since 1986.

Dr. Aggarwal has made a tremendous impact on the achievements and successes of students who have enrolled in his college courses. His first priority has and continues to be ensuring the academic development of his students, as evidenced by time spent with them both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

Throughout his tenure at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, alumnae as well as university graduates have consistently reported how Dr. Aggarwal contributed to their success in their chosen career fields. Moreover, his colleagues regard him as an excellent professor and deem him a gracious and grateful person deserving of recognition and honor for his active role in the advancement of higher education.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Khem Aggarwal for his exceptional contributions and remarkable influence on the field of higher education.

TRIBUTE TO GULF COPPER & MANUFACTURING

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 27, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will

present its business of the year award to Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation, Gulf Copper, in recognition of the many contributions that it has made to the Galveston community. I am pleased to join my friends from the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in paying tribute to Gulf Copper.

Gulf Copper is an employee-owned company that has been in existence for over 50 years. Originally specializing in the installation of copper tubing on marine vessels, Gulf Copper has since expanded into the offshore, military marine, petrochemical, and industrial markets with base services including full topside marine repair, steel fabrication, steel and mechanical repair, machining, painting, and blasting. These expansions of service are helping Gulf Copper achieve their objective of being the preferred provider of marine and industrial fabrication and repair services in the Texas gulf coast.

Gulf Copper's customer list includes most major U.S. commercial ship operators as well as the U.S. Government Maritime Administration, Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Military Sealift Command.

Gulf Copper's success has brought many benefits to Galveston. For example, Gulf Copper is responsible for pumping a seven-digit revenue stream into the Port of Galveston. Gulf Copper is also a source of employment for many residents of Galveston County. In June 2007, Gulf Copper Dry Dock and Rig Repair added an additional 683 employees to its already large staff. Gulf Copper has also helped attract London-based Rolls Royce Commercial Marine to the Galveston area.

Gulf Copper also benefits the people of Galveston by serving as a model of corporate civic involvement. The company has helped promote Galveston's Oceans of Opportunities Job Fair and works with Galveston College to promote Workforce Investment Act-funded welding and pipe fitting classes.

Gina Spagnola, president of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, said that Gulf Copper deserves this award because: "They are actively involved in the Galveston community and have made a positive impact on both employers and workers. This chamber and the City of Galveston are grateful for Gulf Copper's commitment to our community."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in honoring the management and staff of Gulf Copper for all of their contributions to the economy and community of Galveston, Texas.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 43, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AN ADVOCATE FOR ARMY QUALITY OF LIFE, WILLIAM A. ARMBRUSTER

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tireless public servant who has dedicated much of his career to improving the quality of life for our soldiers and their families. William A. Armbruster shortly will be retiring from the Army as he steps down from his role as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Privatization and Partnerships.

I first came to know Bill through the Army's collaboration with myself and local officials over re-use issues at the former Fort Ord, which was closed in a BRAC action in 1991. More importantly, Bill was pivotal in shepherding plans to privatize Army housing at the Presidio of Monterey—now known as the Ord Military Community—in one of the most successful Residential Community Initiatives ever undertaken in the United States. In Monterey there is a strong military presence including the Army and Navy and related agencies. Both services were in dire need of upgrading their housing to accommodate growing numbers of personnel. Rather than expend millions of dollars in rehabbing inadequate barracks and family quarters for soldiers and their families who are attached to the Defense Language Institute, Bill helped craft a first-in-the-nation joint RCI project between the Army and the Navy using private capital to leverage new and improved housing stock. Now not only do both the DLI and the Naval Postgraduate School have premier housing for their personnel, they have it at minimal cost to the Federal government.

This is the sort of creative thinker Bill Armbruster is. He uses the power of his office to make positive changes in his department and for the men and women who serve our military.

Even more recently Bill has been front-and-center on negotiating a complicated land swap at the former Fort Ord that, again, will result in much needed housing for Army personnel and for the first time will make available this housing to essential personnel attached to the DLI and other Federal agencies. This deal, colloquially known as the Stilwell Kidney exchange, involves the Army, the City of Sea-side, the California State Parks system and the American Youth Hostel. It has taken 4 years to accomplish. But Bill stuck with it because he knew it was the right thing to do to advance the mission of the Army and the nation.

Madam Speaker, I will miss Bill Armbruster for his creativity, his dedication and especially his humaneness. He was always looking out for our service men and women's quality of life. It has been a joy to work with a man of such integrity, and I wish him well in the years ahead.

THE KING LEGACY AWARD FOR  
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to "The King Legacy Award for International Service." In January 2007, Greek Ambassador Alexandros Mallias received this coveted award for his contributions to peace in the Balkans, to Greek-American relations, and to efforts to prevent such abhorrent practices as human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery.

Accepting the award, the Greek ambassador spoke of Dr. King's struggle for freedom and against discrimination in the context of the search for justice memorialized by classic Greek tragic playwrights, like Aeschylus in his play "Prometheus Bound" and Sophocles in his play "Antigone." He also highlighted the inspiration given by Dr. King to struggles for democracy worldwide, including Greece during military dictatorship in the late 1960s, and against discrimination, noting also that AHEPA, the largest and oldest Greek-American association, was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1922, precisely to defend Greek immigrants from persecution and segregation.

Below is an article Ambassador Mallias wrote on Dr. King and the Greek classics.

[From the Washington Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

DR. KING AND THE GREEK CLASSICS

(By Alexandros P. Mallias)

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. His death on April 4, 1968, found my country in the midst of one of its darkest hours, as the one year anniversary of an oppressive military dictatorship neared.

With my fellow citizens living under military rule and deprived of the very basic freedoms, I was inspired by the people of Birmingham, Ala., of Memphis and Atlanta, who, in a most dignified way, poured into the streets, standing up for what was rightly theirs.

Across the Atlantic, the civil-rights movement reached us in the clarion voice of Martin Luther King Jr., and hope stirred in the hearts of many Greek people like myself that "We", too, "Shall Overcome."

Upon my arrival in Washington as Greece's ambassador, and influenced by what I call the current "Golden Age for the Classics" in the United States, I have gone back to the staples of my education with new appreciation—Sophocles, Plato, Homer, Heraclitus, Thucydides. And I realized that the Rev. King's speeches and homilies are fraught with references to the Greek classics.

I pored over his writings and speeches and realized his was no simple preaching. I began to sense he had a profound understanding of what we call the "classics." In his Nobel acceptance speech, he spoke of Greek literature, of Homer and the temptresses Sirens, of Orpheus—not in dry academic fashion, but as part and parcel of his understanding of the world.

As the beneficiary of a classical education, as were most young Greeks of my generation, the words of Dr. King brought to mind great orators of ancient Greece—Demosthenes, for one, who had to overcome his own particular limitations.

In his sermon "Loving Your Enemies," delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 17, 1957, Dr. King expounded on the power and comprehensiveness of the Greek language, explaining how Greek "comes to our aid beautifully in giving us the real meaning and depth of the whole philosophy of love . . . for you see the Greek language has three words for love . . . eros . . . a sort of aesthetic love. Plato talks about it a great deal in his dialogues, a sort of yearning of the soul for the realm of the gods. Then the Greek language talks about philia . . . the intimate affection between personal friends. The Greek language comes out with another word for love. It is the word agape . . . the understanding, creative, redemptive good will for all men. It is a love that seeks nothing in return."

Erudite men and women have researched the education of Dr. King, concluding that he studied the ancient Greek classics at length and drew inspiration not only from the Bible, but also from ancient Greek philosophers, playwrights and political figures.

Dr. King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail" of April 16, 1963, was addressed to his fellow clergymen and expounded upon his own theory of civil disobedience: "I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment . . . is in reality expressing the highest respect for law" brought to mind Antigone, a reluctant but inevitably brave heroine, in Sophocles' namesake play, who said: "I will not obey an unjust law, and if something happens because of it—so be it."

This was not wasted on classics professor Lewis Sussman of the University of Florida, who wrote extensively on this connection.

I need no further proof of the inspiration Dr. King imparted from the classics than his own words in the last speech of his life, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," which resounded around the world on April 3, 1968, just one day before his assassination in Memphis: "I would take my mental flight by Egypt through, or rather across the Red Sea, through the wilderness on toward the promised land. And in spite of its magnificence, I wouldn't stop there. I would move on by Greece, and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality."

Dr. King's words continue to inspire me. And what I impart from him is similar to what I imparted from the ancient Greek tradition that the "good life" is the one in which the individual partakes in the responsibility and concerns of all society.

HONORING ALIPIO COCO CABRERA

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alipio Coco Cabrera on his 25th anniversary in radio and television broadcasting. Coco can be considered a communicator by nature. He was born in Villa Mella, Dominican Republic. He started his career as a journalist for "Noti Tiempo" commercial radio station as well as a writer for "El Nacional" newspaper. Coco immigrated to the United States in 1978, settling in New York City. He continued to

work for Dominican Republic Media but also became a radio correspondent for "Radio Mil and Nacional."

Coco received a contract with Hispanic Broadcasting Association, HBC, to work on many of their projects. He is now part of the powerful radio and television chain known as Univision. He can be heard on various radio programs, "Coco and Gisela," "Coco Clasicos," and "The Coco and Celines Show" on 105.9 Latin Mix. This show is known as one of the most important morning radio shows in the New York area. He has also made guest appearances on Univision TV shows such as "Despierta America," "Al Despertar" and "Don Francisco Presenta."

Throughout his career, Coco has received numerous national and international awards, which include: "Cassandra Distinguished Radio Personality," presented by the Association of Arts & Journalism of Santo Domingo. He was the first Dominican to receive this award that lived outside the country. In 2007, Coco received the "Distinguished Journalist and Citizen Award" presented by Dr. Pedro Henriquez Ureña, director of Human Rights Organization of Santo Domingo.

Alipio Coco Cabrera is a veteran of radio and is best known for his unique style and electric personality. It is only fitting that on February 17, 2008, he will be honored for 25 years in the radio broadcasting business at a banquet to be held at the United Palace Theater in New York City.

Please join me in honoring Alipio Coco Cabrera for his outstanding achievements and in congratulating him, his children Jean Carols and Jacyra.

RECOGNIZING UNO, THE FIRST  
BEAGLE TO WIN "BEST IN  
SHOW" AT THE 2008 WEST-  
MINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG  
SHOW

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Uno, the first beagle to win "Best In Show" at the 132nd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden.

Uno was bred and is co-owned by Kathy Weichert, of Belleville, IL. While Uno came into this competition with 32 previous best in show ribbons, he faced considerable competition at this year's Westminster event. Not only had no beagle ever won "Best In Show" at Westminster, no beagle had even placed first in the hound division since 1939.

Uno not only won the recognition of the judges at this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, but he was also the fan's favorite as was made evident by the rousing, standing ovation from the capacity crowd at Madison Square Garden when his victory was announced.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy Weichert, owner of K-Run Kennels in Belleville, IL and recognizing Uno, this year's "Best In Show" winner at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

## TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. POWERS

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Charles E. Powers, the former mayor of Fort Mill, SC, a town I have the honor of representing. I call his service to the attention of the House because his long years in office are a model for local government.

Charles Powers served as mayor of Fort Mill for 24 years, and before that, as a member of the city council. During all these years, he worked and raised a family, but the City claimed his devotion. As mayor, he was totally committed. Fort Mill came first.

While serving as mayor, Charles Powers oversaw his small town as it grew and grew in the backwash of Charlotte, NC. He made sure that Fort Mill got its share of the growth, yet never lost its hometown quality, its hospitality and friendship. He helped Fort Mill remain a special place, and not become a bedroom suburb of Charlotte. He had the vision to see the need for a new city hall, for a local library, for a visitors' center on Main Street, and for numerous other projects. Under his leadership, things got done. Fort Mill flourished as an all-American town.

In his latest race for re-election, Charles Powers did not have the good fortune of winning, but he took defeat with the grace and goodwill that always marked his years in office.

Just a few days ago, Charles Powers, in his well worn role as ambassador of good will, opened the door of a local convenience store, and spoke kindly to the stranger going out. Before he realized that the man had just robbed the store, the stranger turned his pistol on Charles Powers and shot him. Fortunately, Charles Powers survived the assault, and is out and about Fort Mill again.

Local elected officials like Charles Powers deal with problems that nettle people most, from potholes to public schools. Leaders like him solve those problems and make our democracy work and our communities livable. When they step down after years of service, they deserve our recognition and respect.

## IN TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

**HON. JIM MARSHALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as it marks 100 years since its doors first opened for classes.

The school, which is known throughout Georgia as ABAC, has grown from a high school with three instructors and 27 students to more than 3,600 students with a reputation as one of the Nation's 10 best community colleges.

Located in Tifton, GA, the school is the product of a 1906 Georgia law that established a district agricultural high school in each of Georgia's congressional districts. Mr. H.H. Tift successfully led an effort to secure the

school for Tifton, which outbid other area cities. The school—originally named The Second District A&M School—opened its doors on February 20, 1908.

Madam Speaker, students received a high school education that let them go on to careers in farming, business and medicine, but as education improved in rural areas, the State saw the need for a men's senior State college in South Georgia. In 1924, the school began the transition from a high school curriculum to a college program as the South Georgia A&M College.

This would be the first of several changes to the school's name and purpose. The biggest change came in the midst of the Great Depression in 1933, when the college's focus was narrowed to just agriculture and home economics and it was renamed the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to honor a Georgia signer of the United States Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the school's focus has expanded over the years and now includes 57 diverse programs of study, including bachelor of applied science degrees in diversified agriculture and in turfgrass and golf course management.

ABAC's programs in turfgrass and golf course management have been cited as some of the best in North America, and the college has also been recognized for its top marks in student-facility interaction and academic challenge.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in honoring ABAC for its 100 years of service to Georgia's students.

## HONORING CLARENCE, NEW YORK

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration and recognition of the 200th anniversary of Clarence, NY.

The roots of this historic town date back to 1799, when Asa Ransom became the first to settle there. Ransom opened a tavern, sawmill and gristmill in the area that is today known as the Clarence Hollow. Also among the first to settle in Clarence was Asa Harris, who opened a tavern on the other side of the town in 1807.

It was 1 year later on March 11, 1808, that Clarence was incorporated. This made Clarence the oldest town in Erie County. After its incorporation, Clarence continued to attract farmers and businesses; churches also began to spring up throughout the 52 square mile town. This growing town played a large role in Western New York during the War of 1812. When people fled the City of Buffalo in 1813 due to the fires set by the British, many took refuge in Clarence. Among those who sought shelter were the Salisbury Brothers, who published the Buffalo Gazette from the Asa Harris Tavern.

The late 1800s saw a number of cultural advances in the then small town of Clarence. The first carousel built in the United States was constructed in Clarence in 1897 by Carl Newman and Carl Landow. This hand operated carousel was utilized by the people of Clarence for over 30 years. Also, the impor-

tance of education has a strong history in the town. In 1897, the Parker Union Academy received a large addition, including two towers, one for an observatory and one for a bell. The dedication to the improvement of the school system has been a tradition carried on to the current students in Clarence. A most recent achievement in this area was the Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence award that Clarence High School earned in the 2001–2002 school year.

After World War II, Clarence experienced a great period of growth. The population rose from 2,948 residents to about 13,267 by 1960. The population was not the only thing growing in Clarence in the first half of the twentieth century; the discovery of natural resources opened the doors for many businesses and industries. After gypsum was detected in 1925, the National Gypsum Company was formed and mined for gypsum until 1982. Other resources that were discovered in Clarence during this period were sand and gravel, which provided supplies for many important industries in western New York.

The expansion of industry and culture was also fueled by the implantable pacemaker, patented by Wilson Greatbatch in 1962. Following the invention of this lifesaving device, Greatbatch founded the Wilson Greatbatch LTD. in 1970. The location of this research facility in Clarence opened the doors for a number of employment opportunities and technological advances.

Finally, the history of Clarence can not be discussed without noting that the town's greatest resource is the hard-working members of the community. In Clarence, you find generous, down-to-earth, friendly people who are willing to help their neighbors. More than anything else to celebrate on this 200th anniversary is the good-hearted and gracious people of Clarence.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its rich history, agricultural tradition, innovation, and its wonderful residents, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Town of Clarence.

## HONORING STATION POINT ALLERTON AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE SUMNER I. KIMBALL AWARD

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those serving in the United States Coast Guard at Station Point Allerton of Hull, Massachusetts. They are the proud recipient of the prestigious Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award.

The crew at Station Point Allerton has upheld a long tradition of life saving and mission excellence that was started by Joshua James and Sumner Kimball, the General Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service from 1878–1916. James and Kimball were among the most celebrated life savers in the world and they both served just a short distance from their current Coast Guard station.

The Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award was established in April of 2001 to recognize United States Coast Guard Boat Force units

that are truly the best of the best. It is a rarity in the Coast Guard, as very few units attain this level of outstanding performance. It demands a grade of 90 percent or higher during a rigorous week-long inspection, requiring a combination of exemplary test scores, crew proficiency, superb vessel condition, excellent performance in drills, a successful and progressive unit training program, survival systems readiness and good administrative work by all members. In their line of work, readiness and competence is the difference between life and death.

What makes this feat more impressive is that all 6 boats and their substation, Station (small) Scituate, had to perform at this remarkably high level. I would like to congratulate Commanding Officer Thomas J. Guthlein and the men and women stationed at Point Allerton for their exemplary service:

BMC Michael Dibartolomeo, MKC Kevin Nuzzolilli, BM1 Luis Catala, BM1 Sean Goodwin, BM1 Wayne Lougee, BM1 Christopher Carson, MK1 Robert Chofay, SK1 Michael Murphy, BM2 Phillip Garrett, BM2 James Mankus, BM2 Nicholas Linstrom, BM2 Kleveron Lemos, BM2 Logan Adkisson, MK2 Dominic Michael, MK2 Michael Cella, MK3 Ryan Fahey, FS2 Patrick Kelly, FS2 John Robbins, BM3 Noah Rowland, BM3 Adam Griffin, BM3 Christopher Dangelo, BM3 Matthew Renner, BM3 Jonathan Cunningham, BM3 Jessica Adams, BM3 Glenn Fenster, MK3 David Northrop, MK3 Manish Moideen, SN Brittany Coyne, SN Daniel Williams, SN Adam Ruffner, SN Roger Souliere, FN Angela Klingler, SN Tony Layne.

It is very fitting that such this particular Coast Guard unit receive this very prestigious award. It is given in honor of Sumner Kimball who established the tradition of training and preparedness years ago off the waters of Hull. Even more remarkable, is the fact that this is the second time that Station Point Allerton has received this award, with the first being in 2002. This award is not just a testament to the station, but it is a tribute to the hard working men and women who serve our Coast Guard and who are willing to put their life on the line to protect the safety of mariners and the integrity of our coast.

#### COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON FOR SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand with our State delegation to recognize an important new program begun in Washington to support our soldiers and veterans.

We must never forget that we enjoy our freedom today because of the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of generations of men and women in uniform. From the beaches of Normandy to the jungles of Vietnam, our troops have willingly and repeatedly stood in harm's way to preserve the values and liberties we cherish.

I know my colleagues who stand here with me today share my commitment to keeping

our promises to America's veterans. But we must also keep our promise to veterans in our communities, and the Veterans Family Fund Certificate of Deposit is a perfect example of just such an effort. It is a straightforward way of raising additional funds to meet the needs of Washington veterans and their families, and to assist our returning troops in making a seamless transition home.

This program represents some of the very best that can come from public-private partnerships. I commend the many participating banks and credit unions for joining with the State VA to make this initiative possible, and I hope that other States will soon follow Washington's lead.

No matter how big or small the effort, we must continue to pursue every available means of supporting our troops. We are the United States of America today, and we are free, because of the sacrifices of these men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line—for us, for their country.

#### TRIBUTE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR SPEARMAN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Leonard H.O. Spearman, an outstanding individual who served as ambassador to two African countries and later headed an advisory board to historically black colleges, who passed away on January 16, 2008, at the age of 78 in Katy, Texas.

Leonard Hall O'Connell Spearman, Sr., was a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and a 1947 graduate of what is now Florida A&M University, where he played cornet in a band that included saxophonist Julian "Cannonball" Adderley.

At the University of Michigan, he received a master's degree, 1950, and a doctorate, 1960, in clinical psychology. He was a psychology professor and a dean at Southern University in Baton Rouge before moving to Washington in 1970 to work for the old Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He spent 9 years at HEW, helping shape the educational opportunity programs for disadvantaged students, as well as Federal student loan programs.

Later, he served as U.S. ambassador to Rwanda and Lesotho during the administration of President George H.W. Bush.

After leaving his ambassadorial posts, he taught educational administration at Texas Southern until 1998. From 1993 to 2001, he chaired the nonprofit organization, Rural Electrification for African Development, which advocated solar technology in African villages. Dr. Spearman was honored for his work in education and public service by the National Council of Negro Women among other groups.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to the family of Ambassador Spearman, his wife of 57 years, Valeria Benbow Spearman, and three children, Lynn Dickerson of Baton Rouge, Leonard H.O. Spearman, Jr., of Katy, and Charles M. Spearman of Alexandria, Virginia; a brother, Rawn W. Spearman, Sr., of Virginia Beach; two sisters, Olivia Parker of Washington, DC,

and Agenoria Paschal of Miami, Florida; and seven grandchildren.

Ambassador Spearman was a true American hero whose accomplishments are a testament to his humanitarian spirit.

#### HONORING SIR FRANKLIN MILLER

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my esteemed colleagues and former classmates, Sir Franklin Miller, for receiving honorary knighthood by the British Government. Queen Elizabeth II, during her fall 2007 visit to Washington, DC, awarded Mr. Miller with honorary knighthood—a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire—in gratitude for his work to strengthen U.S.-U.K. defense collaboration during his career with the Department of Defense and as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush. I am pleased to recognize his commitment to America's security.

Frank and I were both members of the Williams College Class of 1972. After graduating, he served as Communications Officer and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer aboard the USS *Joseph Hewes*, a Knox-class frigate, with deployments in the Mediterranean Sea, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. In 1977, he returned to school and received his MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

His talents at defense studies brought him to the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs from 1977 to 1979. For 22 years, he served under seven Secretaries in a series of progressively senior positions. His final assignments were twice as Acting Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy and once as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategy and Threat Reduction.

Frank Miller served as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and as Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff between 2001 and 2005. This made him responsible for Presidential policy initiatives in the fields of nuclear deterrence policy, strategic arms reduction, national space policy, defense trade reform, land-mines, and transforming the American and NATO militaries.

He heroically assumed responsibility for the operation and management of the White House Situation Room immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center Towers on September 11, 2001. This led him to direct interagency support of both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For his distinguished service, he was honored five times with the Defense Department's highest civilian award, the Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. In addition, he has been awarded the Norwegian Royal Order of Merit, Grand Officer, and the French Legion of Honor, Officer. Knighthood is another fitting tribute to Sir Miller's distinguished 31-year career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to congratulate Sir Miller for his recent knighthood. We are grateful to Sir Miller for his outstanding commitment and service to improving the security of this country. I wish him



good health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been there.

H. Res. 867, rollcall No. 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 942, rollcall No. 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 943, rollcall No. 31, Remembering the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED BY THE POWERFUL TORNADOS THAT STRUCK CERTAIN COMMUNITIES ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 971, Expressing the sympathies and support of the House of Representatives for the individuals and institutions affected by the powerful tornados that struck communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee on February 5th, 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families that have experienced the loss of loved ones caused by these tornados. This resolution is important, as it communicates to those affected that Congress is here to do all that it can to help rebuild and restore our damaged communities.

While my district was not affected this time by the tornados on February 5, other communities throughout the State of Mississippi were. And as you know, my State has been no stranger to experiencing disasters. In fact, we are still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and empathize with what the affected communities are experiencing.

We know that after a disaster has occurred, the recovery and rebuilding effort of our communities takes time. And when Federal, State and local governments work efficiently and effectively to provide resources to our communities in a timely fashion, the rebuilding effort moves along more smoothly.

As the chairman of the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, of which FEMA is a part, our committee works diligently to ensure that DHS is prepared to respond to all disasters—whether they be natural disaster or acts of terrorism.

As communities are working hard to recover from the damage caused by the tornados, the committee will closely monitor the responsiveness of FEMA and ensure that the communities affected will receive the assistance that they need to rebuild housing, public facilities and critical infrastructure.

In closing, let me thank my colleague Representative BART GORDON along with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their leadership on this resolution. It is our hope that the rebuilding effort will soon begin, communities will be repaired and that families will begin to heal and return to normalcy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA SBDC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (Louisiana SBDC).

For over a quarter century, the Louisiana SBDC, a network of nine service centers operating in Louisiana, has provided communities throughout the state with the means to launch new businesses and maintain successful existing businesses through offering consulting, business education classes, information resources and other specialized services.

Just in the last six years, the Louisiana SBDC has counseled over 25,000 entrepreneurs, created nearly 7,000 new jobs, and has assisted small businesses in securing nearly \$359 million dollars in financing. Initiatives such as the Louisiana SBDC with its track record of success are just what our nation needs during this time of decline in our economy. This work is made possible through the Louisiana SBDC's partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, participating universities and economic development agencies.

With the help of federal funding, The University of Louisiana at Monroe's College of Business in partnership with the Louisiana SBDC, is poised to develop the Northeast Louisiana Business and Community Development Center. This allows the Louisiana SBDC to continue its mission in Northeast Louisiana and provide for greater opportunity for rural businesses. This center will be a source of entrepreneurship expertise for rural communities in this area, and I expect great things for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District's economy to emerge from the efforts of this center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of the LSBDC as it continues its commitment to empowering local citizens to reach their goals of establishing successful new businesses, which create not only a stronger Louisiana but a stronger national economy.

#### HONORING H.O. TANNER TEACHERS

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 21 the Texas Delta Xi Chapter of the Honorary Educators Organization Alpha Delta Kappa will honor those Texas Delta Xi teachers who attended the H.O. Tanner School in Texas, and then returned to teach at H.O. Tanner after completing their education. H.O. Tanner was constructed in 1900 in order to ensure that Texas' segregation laws did not prevent African-American children from obtaining a quality education.

Laws dictating what schools a child can and cannot attend, based solely on that child's race, are a shameful aspect of America's history. It is hard to think of a better way to celebrate Black History Month than by honoring those who did not allow the burden of the "Jim Crow" laws stop them from obtaining an education, and then used their education to serve the children of their community by devoting their lives to teaching.

It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I join Texas Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa in honoring Geneva Barrett, Cora Mack, Berniece Smith, and Sister Julia Mack, who taught kindergarten at the "new" Henry O. Tanner; Sister Mary Crecy, Geneva Barrett (both of whom will be honored posthumously), and Mary Dixon who taught at the original Henry O. Tanner School; and Sisters Julia and Cora Mack who attended classes on the "new" H.O. Tanner campus.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 44 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 289, the resolution introduced by Congressman AL GREEN to commend the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, on their 99th anniversary.

Few organizations have had such a wide-ranging and long-lasting impact on the United States as the NAACP. Since their founding on February 12, 1909, the NAACP has been a strong, consistent voice for minority Americans. In the face of hatred and opposition, the members of the NAACP have consistently stuck to their guiding principle of nonviolence, and worked instead through elections, the

press, and the legal system. As a result of their leadership and tireless efforts, we are significantly closer to achieving political, educational, social, and economic equality for all.

As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, I congratulate the NAACP on their 99th anniversary. Their work over the past 99 years has made us a better and more tolerant Nation. I wish them the best as they continue their efforts to eliminate discrimination from all corners of our society.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JILL THOMPSON

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jill Thompson. Mrs. Thompson, a registered nurse, was administrator of the Lafayette County, Missouri, Health Department. Sadly, Mrs. Thompson lost her fight with cancer on January 26, 2008.

Mrs. Thompson was an employee at the Lafayette County Health Department for 29 years. She also served two terms as the rural health department representative from the Northwest District on the Partnership Council, was president of the Missouri Association of Public Health Agencies, and served on the board of the West Central Missouri Area Health Education Center. She is fondly remembered by her colleagues as someone who was incredibly dedicated to public health and passionate about serving her community.

Further recognizing her commitment to public health, Mrs. Thompson was a founding member of the Sounds of the Heart organization, which raised money to place automated external defibrillators in locations throughout the community. She was also a member of the Cancer Assistance Relief organization. This organization provides cancer patients with rides to doctors' appointments and hospitals.

Friends and family will never forget her warm personality, dedication, and intelligence. Mrs. Thompson is survived by her husband Larry, three children, and two grandchildren. I'm sure Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of Jill Thompson for her vision and leadership in the field of public health in the State of Missouri.

#### HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE MARY E. SMITHEY PACE LEARNING CENTER

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the dedication and renaming of the PACE School to the Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center in Duncanville, Texas.

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, a ceremony will be held honoring Mary E. Smithey for her many years as a teacher in the Duncanville school system. When Mrs. Smithey began teaching in Duncanville in 1946, she was one of eight teachers who served 287 students in grades one through twelve in one school building, now known as Central Elementary.

Mrs. Smithey was the first retiree of the Duncanville Teachers Association and spoke highly of her career, particularly of her students.

Mary E. Smithey was an exemplary teacher who was loved and respected by her students, their families and her peers. Mrs. Smithey, along with her husband, Grady Sr., have held long careers in public service in their community and the tradition continues as three of their grandchildren are teachers. The Smithey's two sons, Grady Jr. and Gary Ervin, are Duncanville school graduates.

The Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center is an alternative school for students, grades 9 to 12, who need additional assistance in their education. The smaller class sizes and individual learning available at this campus help young people gain confidence and success. Students study a core curriculum, along with electives, on a flexible schedule allowing them the opportunity to achieve a high school diploma.

I am honored to pay tribute to Mary E. Smithey and the Duncanville Independent School District in the dedication and renaming of the PACE School in her memory. The objectives of the PACE Learning Center will perpetuate Mrs. Smithey's legacy in education for many years to come. I am privileged to represent the Duncanville ISD in the 24th District of Texas.

#### DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP CHRISTODOULOS

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the life of the Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, Mr. Christodoulos, who passed away late last month.

Since becoming ordained as a deacon in 1961 and a priest in 1965, Archbishop Christodoulos showed a dedication to his faith and people that earned great admiration and respect among his followers. He was a leading voice on the origins of Christianity, and on the role Christianity had in the creation of the European world and the identity of its citizens.

It was obvious to many that Archbishop Christodoulos cared greatly for his people and worked tirelessly to represent his faithful followers. He also actively sought to bring faith to younger generations, jocularly inviting them back to the church as they were "earrings and all."

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Christodoulos was a remarkable man whose death will be mourned by many. His legacy, however, will impact generations of loyal Greek Orthodox and other members of the Dyophysite faith.

#### DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on February 19, this Nation will recognize the 66th anniversary of the "Day of Remembrance." This was

the day in 1942 that President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The President's decision to intern Americans was an avoidable consequence of racial prejudice and wartime hysteria. The government at all levels was blinded by war, and made decisions that were contrary to our Constitution. The failure of each branch of government to uphold the rights of individuals must be taught so that future generations resist succumbing to the politics of fear.

Because of one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history, we learned of the damage that could be done when we let the politics of fear cloud our judgment. I hope every American will take this day to reaffirm their commitment to our Constitution and the rights and protections it guarantees for all of us. This commitment is a way to prevent such injustice from ever becoming a reality again.

Congress has not only recognized a Day of Remembrance, but it also supports and funds internment site preservation as the physical reminder of past inequality. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that future generations will be able to visit the internment camps to gain a better understanding of the previous generation's experience.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This act proves what is great about our country. When this act passed, our Nation formally acknowledged and apologized for violations of civil liberties and constitutional rights of over 100,000 interned Americans.

As we look back on a time in our Nation's history, and how our country has responded since, we should have hope for the future. Around the world, human rights violations continue unabated. Yet, we can combat this by working with a single purpose towards a future wherein every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality or creed enjoys equal treatment in this world.

And today, 66 years after the signing of Executive Order 9066, we must renew our commitment to bringing these rights to all people.

#### EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to my colleague, my neighbor, and my friend, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

For three decades, TOM LANTOS has been an eloquent voice for the voiceless here and around the world. With his passing, our country has lost a great champion for human rights. His dedication to his fellow human beings was rooted in having survived the Holocaust. His story of survival and escape from Nazi forced labor camps in Hungary during the Second World War is inspirational, but it was the memory of those, including his mother,



whom he lost, that motivated him in his extraordinary career of public service.

TOM LANTOS' story was also the story of an immigrant. He said he was an American by choice. Coming to the United States through an academic scholarship, he worked hard and made the most of the opportunities that only America can offer. He earned degrees from the University of Washington and the University of California, Berkeley, and taught economics for 30 years before running for Congress in 1980, winning against a Republican incumbent in a Republican year.

As a Member of Congress, TOM LANTOS raised the profile of human rights in every corner of the world from China to Tibet and from Sudan to Burma. One of the first things he did when he came to Congress was to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983. As the only Armenian-American serving in the House, I'm especially grateful for TOM's leadership as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last year when he worked to secure the passage of legislation recognizing, at long last, the Armenian Genocide of 1915. His voice in the face of strong opposition from many fronts helped secure the passage of this resolution through the committee.

Although Congressman LANTOS' expertise was in world affairs, he took care of his constituents in California's 12th Congressional District. For 15 years I've had the privilege to serve with him, representing one of the most remarkable areas of our country. We worked together on efforts to preserve our local environment and improve transportation.

Congressman LANTOS' efforts are clearly visible throughout his congressional district. He worked to expand BART service at San Francisco International Airport and to create a water ferry service from San Mateo County to San Francisco. He led the effort to acquire Rancho Corral de Tierra for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and we worked together to fund a visitor's center for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary at the Fitzgerald Marine Center.

More important than the legacy of his work is the legacy of his family, especially the love of his life, his wife Annette; his daughters Annette and Katrina; and his 18 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They always represented the greatest achievements of his great life.

America was blessed by the life of Congressman TOM LANTOS. May he rest in the peace that he worked so hard to bring to others during his entire life.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN R.  
COCHRAN

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. John Cochran, Business Development Executive of Bank of America Card Services. John will retire this year from his position as a leader in a company with the largest credit card portfolio in North America, having over 40 million customers amounting to \$190 billion in high-interest loans.

During his time at Bank of America, John was responsible for all business development

endeavors for Bank of America Card Services. Prior to the January 2006 merger with Bank of America, John was the chief operating officer of MBNA Corporation, which he also helped to found in 1982. Under John's direction as head of Business Development, MBNA became a pioneer in issuing so-called "affinity" credit cards—cards endorsed by alumni associations, interest groups, professional organizations, clothing manufacturers, sports teams, and others. Cards emblazoned with the logo of a much-loved alma mater or team proved to be appealing to many consumers and, as a result of John's ingenuity, MBNA enjoyed runaway growth. Within 10 years, MBNA had become one of Delaware's largest employers, and remains so today under the Bank of America name. John is also the person behind Bank of America's 3 major affinity relationships: the National Education Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the American Automobile Association, all 3 of which will celebrate 27 years of successful marketing agreements with Bank of America this year.

John was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Loyola College, where he currently sits on the board and has served as its chairman. Though not a Delaware native, John contributes to the State of Delaware in more ways than just furthering private sector development. John is a member of the board of directors of the Delaware Council for Economic Education. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Delaware Public Policy Institute.

I acknowledge Mr. John Cochran for his many years of service and numerous contributions to Bank of America, the credit card industry, and the State of Delaware. I am confident that as he enjoys his retirement with his wife and children, and cheers for his beloved Baltimore Orioles, he will remain an active and influential member of our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 13, I was detained and unable to vote on rollcall 46. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

IN MEMORY OF GLADYS JOY  
KENNEDY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Gladys Joy Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy was a devoted and active member of the Pasadena community.

Gladys Joy Kennedy was born on June 1, 1965, the beloved child of Thomas Foster Kennedy, now deceased, and Leola Sudduth Kennedy of Pasadena, California. Gladys, a twin, was the ninth of ten children. A Pasadena area resident all of her life, she attended Cleveland Elementary School, McKinley Junior High School, and Blair High School.

Gladys was active in many churches in the Pasadena area, including Holy Deliverance Church and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church. She was a proud and devout member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Altadena, where she was an enthusiastic and devoted volunteer. Gladys also volunteered extensively for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pasadena Branch, and assisted with numerous local political campaigns.

Gladys Joy will be greatly missed, and I extend my sincere condolences upon the untimely and very sad loss of Gladys Joy to the extended Kennedy family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY  
DOUGLAS MEADE

**HON. RICK BOUCHER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Douglas Meade and pay tribute to his 43-year public service career to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Douglas Meade, the son of a coal miner, grew up on a farm in Wise County, Virginia. He started his public service career in 1964 as a social worker in Wise County. In 1970 after receiving a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, Douglas worked briefly for the Virginia Department of Social Services in Richmond, Virginia, before returning back to his native roots in southwest Virginia.

For the past 36 years, Douglas has been the director of the Washington County, Virginia, Department of Social Services. His office administers and provides annually over \$40 million in services to citizens of Washington County. In fiscal year 2007–2008, the Washington County Department of Social Services will touch the life in some way of over 16,000 county citizens. Over the years, Douglas has served on numerous State and local task forces and committees that focused on improving the quality of life and opportunities for rural Virginians. Currently he is involved in several southwest Virginia regional initiatives that are focused on improving the job skills, employment opportunity, health care access, and educational attainment of area citizens.

Through his advocacy and public policy development work, Douglas has worked extensively with the Virginia General Assembly and has done some work at the Federal level. He has been recognized as a leader in his field and has received numerous awards. In 1994, Douglas received the President's Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives for his work.

Douglas' rural upbringing has helped form his strong work ethic, values and community spirit. His warmth and eternal optimism brighten the lives of his family and friends.

In 2005, Douglas graduated from the nationally renowned University of Virginia's Sorenson Political Leadership Institute. After retiring from a 43-year career in social services, Douglas has not ruled out running for a political office or continuing, in some way, his commitment to public service.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the distinguished career of Douglas Meade and the outstanding public service he has given to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 45 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 32: "yes," on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall No. 33: "yes," On Agreeing to the Resolution; rollcall No. 34: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 283; rollcall No. 35: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4848; rollcall No. 36: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 37: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 38: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 39: "no," on Motion to Recommit; rollcall No. 40: "yes," on Passage of H.R. 4137; rollcall No. 41: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 947; rollcall No. 42: "no," on Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5140.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION ACT

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act. This bill will authorize a much-needed grant program to assist communities that are overcoming the unique challenges of waterfront brownfields and foster innovative approaches to remediation.

America's industrial heritage was established along the banks of its rivers, lakes, and coasts. Our Nation's vast and interconnected natural water system helped provide the power that fueled our rise to international prominence, and allowed us to move our manufactured goods efficiently to all corners of the country. However, that legacy also includes many decades of environmental contamination on the waterfront. Abandoned factories, dilapidated mills and underutilized ports can be found along the shores of many metropolitan areas. As localities seek to reconnect with

their waterfronts and revitalize their downtowns, brownfield barriers threaten to derail community efforts to create jobs, promote recreational opportunities, restore the ecology, increase tourism, and grow their tax base.

Waterfront brownfields present challenges beyond typical environmental assessment and cleanup projects. Hydrology, water quality, wetlands, endangered species, habitat, dredged materials, flooding, environmental infrastructure, navigation, and other considerations must be carefully addressed so as not to exacerbate existing site contamination. Typically, waterfront brownfields require the involvement of multiple governmental agencies. As such, waterfront brownfields require special attention and resources to overcome their larger hurdles.

In my own district, the city of Rochester, NY, is currently working to revitalize its beautiful waterfront, while attempting to cope with the unique challenges that waterfront brownfields present. The city is undertaking a major community revitalization strategy to redevelop its port and waterfront area into a mixed use development, which will include housing, commercial, retail, and educational uses, enhanced recreation, new parks and open space, and improved public access to Lake Ontario, the Genesee River and the surrounding ecosystem. However, because the Port of Rochester was used extensively for industrial purposes from the late 1800s into the first half of the 20th century, significant environmental remediation will be required prior to redevelopment.

Initial investigations have found that more than 10 acres of the site contain up to several feet of slag from a former iron works. Portions of the site are impacted from petroleum releases and unsuitable fill materials. Old Genesee River deposits on the site and bank sediments have been shown to contain high levels of heavy metals cadmium and silver as well as pesticides and furans. The marina must also be dredged. Before the waterfront reuse can proceed, the Port of Rochester must first address an estimated \$500,000 in environmental assessment issues related to contaminated sediments, beneficial reuse of sediments, groundwater contamination, and waste characterization related to the construction of the marina—and an unknown level of remediation.

Madam Speaker, Rochester is not alone in facing these types of complicated and expensive challenges to redevelopment. Cities all across the country are dealing with similar roadblocks as they try to engage incorporate waterfront real estate into their redevelopment plans, from Yuma, AZ, and Portland, OR, in the west, to Savannah, GA, and Philadelphia, PA, in the east, and almost everywhere in between where lakes and rivers exist.

My bill recognizes that the Federal Government can be an effective partner to communities interested in reconnecting with their waterfronts. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish a waterfront brownfields pilot demonstration program to provide localities and other eligible entities with up to \$500,000 to assess and clean up waterfront brownfields. The bill would also establish an interagency taskforce on waterfront brownfields restoration to identify barriers and potential solutions to waterfront brownfields revitalization, and seek methods for Federal interagency collaboration on such projects.

As cities across the country struggle to thrive in a changing global economy, and as our domestic manufacturing continues to diminish, it is imperative that Congress do all that it can to help these cities redevelop and succeed. Industrialization and manufacturing helped make this country the power that it is today, but as manufacturing has moved overseas it has not only taken jobs and changed the economic base of many industrial cities, it has also left behind decades of contamination. This legislation will give these cities the support they need to redevelop in an environmentally safe way, and utilize their waterfront as an incredible economic asset.

#### EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

### HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I wish to share the perspectives of former Congressman Don Bonker on his distinguished colleague during his service in the House, the Honorable TOM LANTOS.

Tom Lantos was an extraordinary person in so many respects. The only member of Congress to survive the Holocaust, his passionate commitment to human rights, a widely respected authority on foreign policy, and one who worked closely with every administration, regardless of party, and world leaders to insure that democracy, not tyranny, reign in our lifetime.

There was also the extraordinary personal side of Tom Lantos. His confinement and courageous escape from a Nazi-operated forced labor camp in Szob, Hungary, led to his befriending the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who gave him safety in his Budapest apartment and eventual freedom and relocation to the United States.

Mysteriously, Raoul Wallenberg disappeared behind the Soviet Union, never to be heard from again. But Tom and his wife, Annette, never forgot the man who saved their lives, and the 40,000 others whose lives were spared because Raoul Wallenberg, at high personal risk, issued fake passports that enabled them to leave the country.

I first met Tom Lantos before he came to Congress in 1978. As chairman of the subcommittee on human rights, it was suggested I talk to Annette Lantos about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Both Annette and Tom gave eloquent testimony before my subcommittee. Later, Tom Lantos wrote and passed resolutions and had a statue placed in the U.S. Capital honoring Raoul Wallenberg. The teenagers from Budapest have spent a life-time honoring the man who saved their lives.

For many years, I traveled with the Lantos' all over Europe, including, to Russia, Romania and Hungary. They were committed first and foremost to the cause of human rights and strengthening democracies, especially in the countries of the former Soviet Union. There was no more eloquent voice or effective champion on these issues than Tom and Annette Lantos, a true legacy that will endure for generations to come.

There is another Lantos legacy. As a parent of 2 daughters, he took great pride in their 17 incredible grandchildren, all of whom are fulfilling the highest expectations of their grandfather. Every year the Lantos Christmas card displayed a growing family of beautiful and gifted children who obviously gave them considerable pride and joy.

In the Congress, Tom Lantos had no peers. He was respected by leaders of both political parties and the undisputed authority on foreign policy. Most newly elected Congressmen avoid the Foreign Affairs Committee because there is little that can help in their constituencies, but for Tom Lantos it was always about foreign relations. Indeed he ranks, alongside Lee Hamilton, as one of the two finest chairmen who ever presided over the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Tom Lantos, there is even more legacy. His eloquence and charm, personal loyalty to family and friends, his diplomatic grace in meeting world leaders, left one with the impression of being near a truly great leader and genuine statesman of the world. It was a privilege to have known Tom Lantos.

#### INTRODUCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR RESTORING USERS' SECURITY AND TRUST (TRUST) IN HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

##### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the development of a nationwide interoperable health information infrastructure holds tremendous promise for improving patient care, reducing medical errors and lowering costs. Today's health care system needs to be transformed to improve health care quality, safety and affordability, and interoperable health information networks can play an important role in this transformation.

At the same time, without sufficient privacy and security safeguards, such electronic systems could turn the dream of integrated, seamless health IT networks into a nightmare for consumers, reducing the likelihood that patients and providers will embrace and utilize such systems. If we fail to require strong privacy and security standards now, during the early stages of development of nationwide interoperable health IT systems, we run the risk that Americans' medical secrets will be extremely vulnerable to being lost or stolen from these systems, whose weak privacy and security safeguards will be an open invitation to identity thieves, fraudsters and others seeking unauthorized access.

The great Irish poet William Butler Yeats famously wrote that "In dreams begins responsibility." The dream of a nationwide, seamless, effective health IT infrastructure certainly is enticing. Let us hope that we can realize this dream in the future. Today Congress has a responsibility to ensure that patients' personal medical secrets are not put at risk in the process.

According to a report released last year by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, has taken some steps to identify solutions for protecting patient privacy in health IT systems, but HHS has "not yet defined an overall approach for integrating its

various privacy-related initiatives and addressing key privacy principles, nor has it defined milestones for integrating the results of these activities." (GAO-07-400T) Over the past 3 years, repeated breaches of electronic systems containing Americans' Social Security numbers, addresses and other sensitive personal information have reinforced the need for strong data safeguards for Americans' medical records. According to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a non-profit consumer organization, more than 218 million data records of U.S. residents have been exposed due to security breaches since January 2005.

I am pleased that Representative RAHM EMANUEL is joining me in introducing the Technologies for Restoring Users' Security and Trust, TRUST, in Health Information Act. The TRUST Health Information Act promotes development of a nationwide interoperable health IT infrastructure that improves patient care, reduces costs and protects the privacy and security of Americans' personal medical information. The Trust Act contains provisions to encourage the development of health IT networks through grants and standard-setting processes while also ensuring that patients' medical records will be protected by strong privacy and security safeguards. For example, the TRUST Act:

Empowers patients to keep their medical records out of health IT databases unless they first give their consent;

Requires patients to be notified if the systems that contain their health information is breached and their information is exposed;

Mandates the use of data security safeguards such as encryption and other technologies that render the information unreadable to individuals who are not authorized to access it;

Authorizes grant funding to enable the purchase and enhance the use of qualified health IT systems; and

Establishes a public-private partnership to make recommendations concerning health IT standards, criteria for the electronic exchange of personal health information and related purposes to encourage the creation of a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure.

Patient privacy and security protections are enablers of, not impediments to, successful nationwide interoperable health IT systems. Only after patients have confidence in these protections will they trust their sensitive medical information to such systems.

The Trust Act is supported by Patient Privacy Rights, Microsoft Corporation, the American Psychoanalytic Association, American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists and the National Association of Social Workers.

#### RECOGNIZING JAMES BENJAMIN FARMER

##### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Benjamin Farmer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6,

and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. For his Eagle Scout Project, Benjamin renovated a room that now serves as a Sunday School Classroom at First Baptist Church in Kinston, NC.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Benjamin Farmer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### SUNSET MEMORIAL

##### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 14, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,806 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the declaration, not the casual notion, but the declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed

by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,806 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this Nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 14, 2008—12,806 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

#### ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, as part of the Gulf Security Dialogue between the Gulf States and the United States, the President has proposed the commercial sale of a number of significant U.S.-produced weapon systems that the President believes will contribute to U.S. national security in the Gulf Region.

There has been a good deal of controversy surrounding these proposed arms sales included in the Gulf Security Dialogue, and, in particular, the sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has taken the reported concerns seriously. The Committee has held four highly classified briefings on the Gulf Security Dialogue. As part of this ongoing dialogue, Chairman Lantos asked the Secretary of State to provide to the Committee, in writing, additional assurances that can be released publicly that this sale will not threaten our interests or those of our friends in the region. Chairman Lantos received a letter with these assurances from the Secretary of State.

Madam Speaker, as the Acting Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I ask that this letter be printed in full in the RECORD so that

all of our colleagues in the Congress can be aware of the assurances which the Committee has received.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
Washington, DC, February 6, 2008.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you regarding the proposed sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia under the rubric of the Gulf Security Dialogue. Over the last year, we have consulted closely with Congress and our partners in the region on the proposed sale. This sale is important to U.S. national interests in the Gulf region. It will strengthen our relationship with Saudi Arabia and will enhance regional security and stability.

The United States has offered for sale a number of military goods to friendly governments in the region to support U.S. interests. In preparing these sales, we have worked closely with our friends in the region to ensure the proposed transfers strengthen stability and security regarding potential challenges from Iran or other threats in the region. We have consulted closely about this sale with Israel and remain committed to the preservation of Israel's qualitative military edge. I can assure you that the sale of JDAMs to Saudi Arabia will not affect Israel's qualitative military edge. The Government of Israel understands the reasons for this sale and does not object to it.

We are mindful of the sensitivity of some of the technology being transferred, and will continue to keep Congress informed on the details of this sale, particularly of any changes in the arrangements we have briefed the committee. We have had, and will continue to have, thorough discussions with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding its obligations resulting from this sale. As a result of these discussions, we are confident that the Government of Saudi Arabia will undertake all necessary measures to secure these weapons and to assure their use only in ways which we support. In particular, the Government of Saudi Arabia will provide adequate security for the JDAMs such that these weapons will not fall into the hands of other nations or groups. Moreover, the Government of Saudi Arabia will ensure that these weapons will not be used against U.S. forces or the forces of U.S. allies.

I hope this resolves any concerns that might exist about this sale. We would be happy to discuss further with you, if you desire. We look forward to working with you to secure the advancement of U.S. interests in the Gulf region.

Sincerely,

CONDOLEEZZA RICE.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform you that I was unavoidably detained in my district over the past few days to come to the floor of the House of Representatives to cast my vote on certain rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall Nos. 43 through 45, rollcall Nos. 48 through 51, and rollcall Nos. 53 through 57.

I would have voted "nay" for rollcall Nos. 46, 47, 52.

#### REMEMBERING RAFIQ HARIRI AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LEBANON

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in a mixture of sadness and outrage to commemorate the third anniversary of Rafiq Hariri's assassination. Sadness because the former Prime Minister, a man of vision and courage, was cut down in his prime as he stood up for the idea of a Lebanon as a nation free from external control, a sovereign, united and independent Lebanon that would regain its rightful place among the nations of the Middle East.

Three years ago a massive car bomb deprived the Hariri family of a husband and father and deprived the Lebanese people of a leader. It would prove to be the first in a dozen political assassinations that have plagued that nation for the last three years orchestrated by the enemies of a free and democratic Lebanon.

And it is this fact, Madam Speaker that fills me with outrage and should fill all our colleagues with outrage as well. Lebanon's future continues to be strangled by Iran and Syria whose agents Hezbollah, Amal and Michel Aoun, try to take through violence and intimidation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. The slow strangulation of the state has left Lebanon without a President for almost 3 months, paralyzing the nation and raising the specter of renewed civil war.

On the third anniversary of former Prime Minister Hariri's murder, the international community must renew its commitment to the people of Lebanon and again speak out against the campaign of naked aggression that has left the March 14 movement only two parliamentarians away from losing their hard won majority. We must renew our demand that Damascus and Tehran lift their boots off Lebanon's neck. And we must ensure that justice is done in the case of Rafiq Hariri and all the other victims of the 3 year campaign to deny Lebanon its rightful place among free and independent nations. Toward that end, the United States and the rest of the international community must make it crystal clear to Syria that the Special Tribunal established by the United Nations Security Council to investigate the terrorist attack on February 14, 2005, is not a bargaining chip to be traded away. The interests of justice in this case far outweigh any concession that the government of Syria might hope to offer. The guilty must be held accountable for their crimes.

The international community has spoken frequently and eloquently through United Nations Security Council resolutions in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon, and has demanded the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. These goals and this unity of purpose must not be abandoned or allowed to wither either from self-interest or distraction. The enemies of Lebanon believe they have time on their side—that they merely need to wait us out and Lebanon will once again be theirs to control.

The conflict in Lebanon is not a sideshow in the Middle East, it is the main event. Lebanon

is where Tehran intends to fulfill its aspirations to regional hegemony and Shiite dominance. There is too much at stake for Lebanon and for the entire region for the world to leave the Lebanese to the mercies of the radical mullahs in Tehran, the thugs in Damascus and their terrorist allies, Hezbollah.

I urge all my colleagues to not only remember Rafiq Hariri and his sacrifice but to speak out in support of the legitimate democratic aspirations of the people of Lebanon. They want only what we enjoy every day—a free, sovereign and democratic state, the servant only of its own people and the master of its own destiny. It's worth fighting for.

#### HONORING THE HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI A-BOMB EXHIBITION

##### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition at the Wisconsin Capitol rotunda. Because of the dedicated efforts of a coalition of Madison organizations, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition Committee, and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, this exhibition has made an incredibly important contribution toward educating Wisconsinites and our country about the devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused by nuclear weapons.

I am heartened by the mission of these organizations to spread peace and international understanding and grateful to the citizens of Madison who helped bring this vital message to our Capitol. I further commend the Exhibition's goal to raise awareness about abolishing nuclear weapons. This is an issue that demands our close attention.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for nonproliferation strategies designed to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from U.S. and worldwide arsenals. I strongly support the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which sets forth objectives to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. I also believe we need to terminate efforts to enhance U.S. military capabilities of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

My thanks go out to the citizens and organizations of Wisconsin who have dared to imagine peace and help make it a reality.

#### CONGRATULATING ROB COGORNO ON HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

##### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rob Cogorno, who will soon be leaving his Congressional career here in the House of Representatives for new opportunities off of Capitol Hill.

Rob's formal title is Floor Director for the Majority Leader, but he is truly a servant of

this institution. Rob has worked for several Members of Congress over his 25-year Capitol Hill career, but the reality is that he has truly served both this institution and the ideals that make it what it is.

As a former Congressional staffer, I recognize the value of our staff. We would not be who we are and our country would not be where it is without, in part, our dedicated, smart and hardworking staff. Throughout his career in the House, Rob has served both the individual Members of Congress he worked for and all the Members of Congress of this institution.

Rob is a strategist. He's a master of the procedures that make the House run. He knows what makes the Democratic Caucus tick. He knows how the various groups that make up our Caucus think. He did more than make the trains run on time or make sure that we, as Members of Congress, had an outlet for our various requests. He gave us his unvarnished opinion, in his calm, easy-going, unflappable way, and at times, he was on the receiving end of some very "spirited" rants and complaints from Members of Congress and their staff. But he always behaved professionally and always worked for what he thought was right.

Rob's knowledge and experience will not be easily filled. But more importantly, there will not be another Rob Cogorno in this institution. Yes, there will be other staffers who will fill his role, but Rob cannot be replaced.

The House is losing one of its own—someone who loves and respects this institution; someone who not only believes in the ideals that make up the Democratic party but also believes in fairness for all who make up this body; and someone who has worked every single day to make our country and this world a better place.

Rob—you will be missed, but you won't be forgotten. I appreciate what you've done for this institution and for the Nation, and I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Good luck in the next phase of your professional life.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 972, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day. February is American Heart month, and today, I join women across the country by wearing red to increase the awareness of heart disease as the leading killer among women and men.

Minorities are disproportionately affected by cardiac disease. In a diverse State like Hawaii, this is an especially important issue. As a Congresswoman, I support funding for medical research and improved treatment. And I will continue to advocate for affordable, accessible health care for all.

However, fighting heart disease is not only a public policy issue. Americans can help prevent and reduce heart disease and decrease

the deaths it causes through education and lifestyle changes. Adults should learn the signs of heart attack and stroke, because quick recognition will increase the chance of survival. And we should all make a point to live healthier. Eating better, exercising more, and refraining from smoking are common sense lifestyle choices that could save our lives. I know how hard it is to make time to eat right and get to the gym—but it is worth it. As we celebrate Valentine's Day and affairs of the heart, let us commit ourselves to making that effort for improved heart health.

#### EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for almost three decades TOM LANTOS was been a passionate voice in the U.S. Congress, and a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. Chairman LANTOS' commitment to human rights was forged by his own life's experience, by the violence and tragedy that he saw as a young man in Hungary. His commitment to issues such as ending the genocide in Darfur will be remembered by all those who have served with him throughout his long career in public service.

The Bay Area, and the Foreign Affairs Committee, will sincerely miss his passion and dedication, and his unrelenting commitment to not only helping those in need, but making sure that respect for human rights is at the forefront of our Nation's foreign policy. My heart goes out to Annette, his partner for almost 60 years, as well as his two daughters, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

#### HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

##### HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable defense force, and an independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences on the passing of Congressman TOM LANTOS, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and my respected colleague from California.

As news spread on Monday of Chairman LANTOS' passing at age 80 due to complications from cancer, a great sadness resonated throughout the House of Representatives and all of Washington. This House, the Nation, and especially the people of California have lost a great champion for human rights, a very personal cause of Representative LANTOS. He was the only Holocaust survivor to ever be elected to Congress and his own experiences enlightened his service and enriched his service in this body.

Throughout his 14 terms in the House of Representatives, Representative LANTOS conducted himself with dignity, grace, and a passion for human rights. As co-chairman and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a group that highlights human rights violations worldwide, he was able to provide a platform and a voice for persecuted peoples around the globe.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Representative LANTOS' wife Annette, their two daughters, their 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren in their time of mourning. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with TOM LANTOS these last 28 years in the House of Representatives. I know that he will be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends for all the love and support he has given to them and so many others throughout the years.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE  
NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 289, which honors the NAACP on its 99th anniversary.

I want to thank Congressman AL GREEN, who served as president of the Houston Branch of the NAACP for over 10 years, for once again introducing this important resolution.

I also want to recognize the outstanding job that NAACP Chairman Julian Bond has done in leading the organization.

Almost a century ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in New York City during this month of February that we now recognize as Black History Month.

As a child of the civil rights movement, I witnessed first hand the leadership of the NAACP in fighting for human rights.

I remember vividly, the role the NAACP played in shattering segregation in my birthplace of El Paso, Texas.

We all know their great contributions:

From the victory in Brown vs. Board of Education, to the non-violent sit ins at segregated lunch counters, to passage of the Voting Rights Act, the NAACP has played a central role in every great civil rights battle of the last century.

Today, the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to be a powerful voice in the ongoing struggle against injustice, oppression, and war.

The NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner as I have worked with my colleagues to end the war in Iraq, stop the genocide in Darfur, and eradicate the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

They opposed the Iraq war from the beginning and support our efforts to end the occupation and bring the troops home.

They led the charge in support of my bill authorizing divestment from Sudan and they worked with faith, activist and student groups to ensure that it got signed into law at the end of last year.

And on HIV/AIDS, they have consistently been on the frontlines advocating for increased funding to help end the devastation this disease has caused in the African American community.

In short, the NAACP continues to demonstrate their commitment to stand on the battlefield and lead the charge for what is right. They deserve this honor and our praise and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING STEVEN J. BREEZE

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Centralia, Illinois native Steven J. Breeze on being awarded the United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross and upon his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Lt. Col. Breeze was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in a March 22, 2003 mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His low level flight lasted 3 hours, covering 590 miles. His skills saved 58 lives and delivered an assault force on time to their destination.

I am proud to recognize Lt. Col. Breeze for his service to the United States of America. I join a grateful Nation in thanking him for his service and congratulating him on this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, on February 13, 2008, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows;

Rollcall vote 43, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 44, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 45, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. Bishop of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, February 13, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the five votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 48; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 49; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 50; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 51; and I would have voted "no" on Motion to Adjourn, rollcall vote No. 52.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING  
OF THE DENTON COUNTY AFRICAN  
AMERICAN MUSEUM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Denton County African American Museum. This museum is being dedicated on Saturday, February 16, 2008, and will reflect the resilience and determination of the African American citizens of Denton County.

The museum is located in an original Quakertown house that was restored under the guidance of the Historical Park Foundation of Denton County. With its dedication, the Denton County African American Museum joins the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the Bayless-Selby House Museum as part of the Denton County Museums.

The Museum's historical exhibits will feature African American families of Denton County as well as the Quakertown experience. It will also house the collection of artifacts from Dr. Edwin D. Moten, Denton's first African American doctor. The collection includes more than 600 letters written by Dr. Moten to family, friends, and professional colleagues as well as photographs, postcards, medical records, medicine cases, his medical shingle from in front of his office, prescription pads and narcotics register from Denton County.

As someone who practiced medicine in the Denton area for nearly 30 years, I am fascinated by the pieces in Dr. Moten's collection from both a medical and a historical perspective. My own grandfather, Dr. Harry Clifton



Burgess, was a contemporary of Dr. Moten. While it is interesting to think about how these men practiced before the advent of anesthesia and antibiotics, it is also inspiring to think of the courage that someone like Dr. Moten would have had to practice in such inhospitable conditions both personally and professionally. His perseverance during these harsh conditions is remarkable.

Madam Speaker, today I commend people like Dr. Edwin Moten for their inspiration and proudly rise to recognize the culturally rich addition of this important museum to Denton and the entire north Texas area. I also call on north Texans and all Americans to reflect and recall the courage, perseverance, and spirit of those honored in the new Denton County African American Museum. It is an honor to represent the 26th Congressional District of Texas and to commemorate this historical occasion.

HONORING HELEN LODGE, DR.  
JOREA MARPLE, SARAH  
STEBBINS, AND JENNIFER BAI-  
LEY

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor four outstanding women in my district who are being honored for their commitment to their communities and for serving as role models to countless young women, empowering them to succeed. The Young Women's Christian Association of Charleston, WV named Helen Lodge, Dr. Joreia Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey as the 2008 Women of Achievement Honorees.

Helen has spent her career as a dynamic leader and advocate for health and nutrition in West Virginia. Early in her career, she was integral in the West Virginia State Legislature passing legislation to require early detection testing for newborns for phenylketonuria, PKU, a simple test that can prevent mental deficiency in newborns. She has received numerous recognitions throughout her career and currently chairs the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians. As active leader in her Charleston community, Helen assists with the fundraising efforts of the West Virginia Symphony League and Youth Symphony and the American Heart Association.

Dr. Joreia Marple represents one of the most noble professions, educating our young people. Her 30-year career includes stints as a teacher, reading specialist, graduate and undergraduate instructor, and a former superintendent of Kanawha County schools. Her most noteworthy achievement is authoring the book, *An Insider's Guide to Making School Systems Work*. Dr. Marple currently serves as Assistant State Superintendent of the West Virginia Department of Education overseeing curriculum and instruction.

Sarah Stebbins is a pioneer among women in the development of information technology in the aeronautics and astronautics industries. A graduate of WVU, she began her career in the development of early computers and later worked as an aerospace research analyst for the Air Force and as a project leader in the Naval Research Lab in the Space Systems

Development Department. Her most notable achievement is helping with the software development of the Global Positioning System, a technology that has revolutionized the way we view and navigate our world and beyond. Sarah retired in her hometown of Charleston, WV with her husband and family.

Finally, I would like to honor Jennifer Bailey, the recipient of the YWCA Women of Achievement Empowerment Award. Jennifer stands as a success story among the mission of the YWCA and is an inspiration to women in all walks of life for her ability to persevere and overcome numerous obstacles. The YWCA was there for Jennifer every step of the way in helping her overcome numerous personal obstacles. Jennifer now enjoys spending time with her son, working in retail, and maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. in her classes.

Again, I congratulate Helen Lodge, Dr. Joreia Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey, who will be honored February 21, 2008. It is an honor to represent such distinguished and inspiring women in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

HONORING ST. LOUIS PARK FOR  
AWARD WINNING YOUTH PRO-  
GRAMS

### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today honor the great city of St. Louis Park, Minnesota for winning the America's Promise Alliance's 100 Best Communities for Young People competition for the third year in a row. St. Louis Park is one of the cities in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota.

St. Louis Park is an amazing community for young people because residents engage youth with meaningful artistic, cultural and civic opportunities. One such opportunity is the Friends of the Arts program, which pairs youth with donated musical instruments and offers creative writing classes for teens. A local church, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, offers young artists the ability to improve their artistic skills and a platform to perform or display their work.

Residents of St. Louis Park's Lake Forest Neighborhood organize a program called "Arts Crawl" which sponsors family art programs and raises scholarship funds for youth. Additionally, the city government makes an effort to invite young people to community events and meetings.

The City of St. Louis Park and its residents are committed to a brighter future for their city, their state and their country. I applaud Mayor Jeff Jacobs, the residents of St. Louis Park and especially the young people for their hard work and dedication to improving their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
RUSSELL HAMMER

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Rusty Ham-

mer, a dedicated leader and advocate on behalf of the Los Angeles business community and a dear friend, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

I had the privilege of working with Rusty during his 5 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

At the chamber's helm, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members and their more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's dedicated leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. Today, these partnerships have reestablished the Chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. I observed this first hand during the chamber's annual trips to Washington, DC, which became immensely productive and influential under Rusty's leadership.

While we all deeply miss Rusty, I know his work and many contributions will continue to benefit the Los Angeles business community for many years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with Rusty's special wife, Pam, and their family during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Rusty's life, I would like to submit for the RECORD his obituary that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on January 30. It provides more insight into Rusty's full and accomplished life.

RUSSELL HAMMER, 54; HEAD OF L.A. BUSINESS GROUP

(By Elaine Woo)

Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer, former president and chief executive of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, died Monday at a hospice in San Jose. He was 54.

The cause was leukemia, according to a chamber spokeswoman.

Hammer was credited with revitalizing the Los Angeles business group, which he led for five years until 2006, when he stepped down because of his illness. During his tenure, chamber membership grew from 1,200 to 1,600 companies, and new initiatives helped to refocus the organization on local, state and national policy issues.

"He had a substantial impact on the chamber and also on the people he worked with," said George Kieffer, a Los Angeles attorney who was chairman of the chamber during the first few years of Hammer's presidency. "The chamber has an extraordinary legacy but . . . had become less active in the business community and the greater civic community. Rusty played a very big part in turning that around."

Born on May 12, 1953, in Orleans, France, Hammer grew up in San Jose. He received a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Santa Clara in 1975 and a master's in public administration from San Jose State University in 1979.

He entered politics at an early age, organizing high school students for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign in 1968. Hammer ran for office himself in 1972, becoming at 18 the youngest person elected to the Campbell, Calif., City Council. At 21, he became mayor and made headlines as the nation's youngest mayor.

After two terms as mayor, he entered business and served in a variety of management

positions, later rising to president of Quadrex Corp., an engineering firm.

In 1994 he was recruited to become chief executive of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Over the next seven years he raised the profile of the Sacramento chamber, leading it to take a prominent role in local issues, such as the effort to save McClellan Air Force Base, and starting a public policy seminar that attracted world figures, including Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher.

When he arrived in Los Angeles in 2001, Hammer worked in a similar fashion, finding ways to make the Los Angeles chamber more relevant to members. He reached out to other local business groups, small companies and entrepreneurs and organized events that offered a regional perspective, such as a 2002 conference on transportation that drew 500 participants from business and government.

In 2003 he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and spent 303 days in a hospital undergoing intensive treatment. While battling his illness, he helped organize a Silicon Valley branch of the Wellness Community, a support group for cancer patients.

He also wrote a book, "When Cancer Calls . . . Say Yes to Life," which he published on his own last year. The book discusses how his battle against cancer forced major adjustments in his life and changed his values.

He told the San Jose Mercury News last year that he was inspired to write the book by his children, twins Gerald and Jennifer, who told him he could not die until he had taught them everything he could about how to approach life. He is also survived by his wife, Pamela.

#### NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1834. I want to commend my colleagues from the Committee on Science and Technology, Chairman BART GORDON, and the Ranking Republican Member, Congressman RALPH HALL, for their leadership in bringing this important bill to enhance our understanding of the marine environment to the House floor.

When I became Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans at the beginning of the 110th Congress, one of my top priorities was to take action on legislation to address the thoughtful recommendations offered by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to improve our Nation's ocean environment. This legislation, H.R. 1834, would implement a key recommendation of the Commission by authorizing two important ocean research programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program.

This legislation, which refines the bill that was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on August 4, 2007, would further strengthen NOAA's standing as the pre-eminent civilian federal ocean agency by granting the agency explicit authority to conduct scientific research that directly contributes to increasing scientific knowledge of the world's oceans.

The legislation would address the glaring national need identified by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to develop and advance new innovations in oceanographic research, communication and navigation technologies to support ocean exploration and science, and expand extramural ocean research.

Additionally, this legislation would emphasize the importance of outreach and public education to ensure that future scientific discoveries and benefits are disseminated to decision-makers in both the public and private sectors and conveyed to the general public. This will increase both public awareness and appreciation of how the world's oceans affect our economic and environmental well-being.

Again, I commend my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for their cooperation. The support of the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Chairman NICK RAHALL, and the ranking Republican member, Congressman DON YOUNG, was also indispensable. Finally, I also acknowledge the leadership of Congressman JIM SEXTON, the sponsor of the bill. I encourage members to vote for this non-controversial legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian Community Action for celebrating its 35th anniversary. Christian Community Action, an organization devoted to helping those in need, has made a tremendous impact on area citizens during its tenure in the north Texas community.

Founded on February 22, 1973, Christian Community Action began by serving local congregations. The group soon began distributing fliers in needy areas offering assistance to those local families who needed it most. CCA provided gifts of food, clothing, housewares, and repair work, but soon realized that for the group to have the effect they wanted, they needed to find a way to expand their reach and obtain financial resources.

It was this decision that caused the organization to connect with area families on a much more personal level. CCA caseworkers learned all about each family's income, budgeting, and spending habits, which presented them with both the information they needed to provide assistance and the coveted opportunity to bond with those they served.

Beginning in 1975, Christian Community Action began focusing on larger scale initiatives, such as resale shops. Now the CCA has evolved from a small bible study group to a thriving organization serving Lewisville and the surrounding area with three CCA resale stores, an adult health center, food services, and education and vocational training.

I would also like to commend Christian Community Action on the importance of the role they play in helping meet the health assistance needs in Denton County, where there is no county hospital to assist. As an OB/GYN

in Denton County for almost 30 years, I'm acutely aware of the needs of the mothers and young children and I especially thank Christian Community Action for their mission in meeting these health needs.

It was also through my work with Christian Community Action that the idea for a program within the Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase awareness for second-hand retailers regarding recalled products was initiated. This project was successfully adopted in the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act, and I commend CCA for their dedication to improving awareness about dangerous recalled products for similar organizations all across the United States.

With more than 2,500 volunteers, CCA touches the lives of approximately 12,000 people every year. However, they are far more than a charity group. To the 1,500 patients treated in the health center each year; to the parents of the children provided with lunches, school supplies, Christmas presents, and clothes; to the 1,660 people who have been given educational and vocational training; to these people, Christian Community Action offers hope. The building blocks provided by the CCA create a foundation for those in our community to create better lives for themselves.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Christian Community Action on their anniversary. Thirty-five years of service is a milestone to be celebrated.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT, JR., SENIOR PASTOR OF THE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (TUCC) OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., who delivered his final sermon on Sunday, February 10, 2008, as the Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago, IL.

Dr. Wright was born on September 22, 1941, in Philadelphia, PA to the union of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Sr. and Dr. Mary Henderson Wright. His parents were his earliest influences, instilling in him the possibility of balancing the intellectual with the spiritual. Upon completion of his elementary and secondary education in Philadelphia, Dr. Wright matriculated at Virginia Union University. After 3½ years at Virginia Union, Dr. Wright left school and entered the U.S. Marine Corps. He transferred from the USMC into the U.S. Navy where he served as a cardiopulmonary technician.

After 6 years with distinction in the military, Dr. Wright transferred to Howard University where he completed his undergraduate studies and received his first master's degree. His second master's degree was from the University of Chicago Divinity School and he furthered his academic pursuits with a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary. In addition to Dr. Wright's four earned degrees, he has been the recipient of eight honorary doctorates. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including three presidential commendations.

An accomplished musician, theologian and author, Wright has written four books, numerous articles and countless sermons and was named one of *Ebony's* top 15 preachers. Dr. Wright has lectured at seminars and universities across the United States and has represented Trinity and The United Church of Christ around the world.

Dr. Wright became Pastor of Trinity UCC on March 1, 1972. Under his leadership, the membership grew from 87 members to nearly 10,000 today with over 70 ministries offered to enhance the Christian journey. Dr. Wright shares his life and ministry with his wife, Rev. Ramah Reed Wright, and is the father of five children and grandfather of three.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life achievements of Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ and I want to encourage Dr. Wright to continue to be "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian". I am truly honored to pay tribute to this outstanding Servant of God and I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP MORRIS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Phillip Morris, a good friend and a great constituent of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio.

Phillip Morris is characterized by many as an "affable and altruistic man." Phillip Morris joined the staff of the Case Western Reserve University law school on October 4, 1971, as building superintendent when the law school was located on Adelbert Road in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then he has worked tirelessly providing support for over one hundred faculty and staff, over six hundred students, and to keep the facilities of the building running smoothly.

Phillip's calm demeanor and great sense of humor have become an invaluable presence at the law school as well as his ability to prepare the building for classes and special events. Phillip has also been described by some as, "The ultimate handyman". When Phillip is not working in the law school, he can be found working on carpentry and construction projects at his home.

In 2004, Phillip Morris was chosen as one of three recipients of the President's Award for Distinguished Service at Case Western Reserve University. This is the highest award that the University confers on its staff personnel. The award recognizes an individual's dedication to provide outstanding service to the Case Western Reserve University community.

Phillip Morris retired from his work on February 1, 2008. Phillip and his wife will enjoy retirement in their newly purchased home in the suburbs of Nashville, Tennessee.

On behalf of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my friend, Phillip Morris, for his service to Case Western Reserve University, and the Eleventh Congressional district of Ohio.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a great friend and statesman, Congressman TOM LANTOS. My prayers are with his family and friends during this time of mourning.

Upon my arrival to Congress, Representative LANTOS personally invited me to his office to welcome me to this body. I appreciated his kind words and encouragement as I started my work here. Since that time Congressman LANTOS has been a wonderful friend of mine and will forever be a source of great inspiration in my professional and personal life.

Congressman LANTOS' early life experiences as a Holocaust survivor and as part of the resistance movement against the Nazis shaped his future work as a husband, father, academic, and public servant. At the young age of 16, Mr. LANTOS and his family were forced into fascist forced labor camps. After escaping twice, Mr. LANTOS sought refuge in a Jewish safe house in Budapest run by humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. After the war ended, he returned to the capital of Budapest in search of his family, only to discover that they had all perished at Auschwitz and other death camps. He reconnected with a childhood friend, Annette, to whom he was married for almost 58 years.

Congressman LANTOS has been a champion for human rights, social justice, and civil liberties during his 28 years in Congress. Congressman LANTOS' dedication to serving his constituents and this Nation will not be forgotten. His life will be remembered as one of courage, selflessness, and tireless dedication to his principles.

My thoughts and prayers go out Congressman LANTOS' wife Annette, his two children, eighteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to join me in solemn remembrance of this great public servant.

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY TEAM  
WINS INTERNATIONAL SEARCH  
AND RESCUE COMPETITION

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, For the first time ever, an American team has won the International Search and Rescue Competition in Toronto, Canada and I am proud to say that the four members of the team are from Pinellas County, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent.

Representing the Coast Guard Atlantic Area, the Seventh Coast Guard District, Sector St. Petersburg, and Search and Rescue Station Sand Key, team captain Kevin

McConn of Tarpon Springs, and Don Hoge, Jim Ryder, and Max Garrison all of Dunedin beat 11 other U.S. and Canadian teams, scoring an impressive 88 out of 104 possible points. They finished 35 points ahead of the second place team.

Two volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas combined into one team that trained together for more than 5,000 hours during an 8-month period. To get to Toronto, they first had to win district and regional events.

The international competition emphasizes events that are designed to test teams' abilities to plan, communicate, and carry out a maritime search and rescue mission. These are skills that all Coast Guard sailors and auxiliary members must know and be able to execute on a moment's notice to save a life or lives at sea.

The team will be honored on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, during ceremonies at Coast Guard Search and Rescue Station Sand Key when they will officially receive the winning trophy for the 2007 International Search and Rescue competition. Rear Admiral David Kunkel, the commanding officer of Coast Guard District Seven, will preside at the ceremony.

Coast Guard Search and Rescue Station Sand Key is one of four major Coast Guard installations I have the privilege to represent in the 10th Congressional District of Florida and this winning team is symbolic of all the men and women of the United States Coast Guard who serve to defend our coastline and protect lives every day of the year, regardless of the threat and the weather.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating these volunteers from Pinellas County that through hard work, dedication, professionalism, and spirited teamwork have brought great honor to our Nation and the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

AUXILIARY WINS INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND  
RESCUE COMPETITION

A quartet of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists from Pinellas County Fla., beat five other U.S. teams and six Canadian teams at the 2007 International Search and Rescue Competition in Toronto Harbor, Canada Sept. 28-29.

For the first time in the eight year history of the competition, American lifesavers carried home the coveted trophy.

To get to ISAR, teams of lifesavers must compete in preliminary regional events. Teams are judged in skill areas in the field of Maritime Search and Rescue. ISAR 2007 featured events that are designed to test the volunteers' ability to plan, communicate and prosecute a maritime search and rescue mission.

A Person-In-the-Water Recovery Event evaluated each team's ability to safely approach and retrieve a person or other object in the water and rescue a person from a burning boat. Other events included: Search and Rescue Planning, Seamanship, Communications, Dewatering Line Toss and Marlinspike and two surprise events, one with the boat helmsman blindfolded and taking direction from a crewman and another where crews rowed out to retrieve and backboard a mannequin and bring this simulated victim to shore.

The winning American team consisted of team captain Kevin McConn, 48, of Tarpon Springs, Don Hoge, 59, Jim Ryder, 69, and Max Garrison, 65, all of Dunedin, Fla. In events that included skills involving strength and speed, these veteran American

mariners beat out teams that included much younger U.S. and Canadian competitors. Scoring an impressive 88 out of a possible 104 points, the Florida Auxiliaries bested the closest competitors, a Canadian team, by an impressive 35 points.

CONGRATULATING GREG  
WEATHERFORD ON HIS COMMU-  
NITY CONTRIBUTIONS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student from my district who has been nationally recognized for commendable volunteer service in his community. Greg Weatherford of Little Elm, Texas has

been acknowledged as a distinguished finalist in Texas by the 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Greg, a senior at Little Elm High School, established the youth service organization "Young People Who Care" 4 years ago. This group gives students the opportunity to become active in their community. "Young People Who Care" has established, among other things, a district-wide peer tutoring program, a school and community beautification committee, and a school-wide recycling program. Greg will receive an engraved bronze medalion for his achievements.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to empha-

size to all youth volunteers that their contributions are vitally important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow in their footsteps. Since its founding, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national level.

Greg should be extremely proud of his achievement. I heartily applaud him for the positive impact he has had on the community. Greg has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. It is an honor to represent such an extraordinary young person in the 26th district of Texas, and I earnestly look forward to the positive contributions he will undoubtedly bestow upon the north Texas community.